Please amend the claims as follows.

9. (Amended) A method of publishing a data message from a publisher application to a subscriber application via a broker, wherein the broker acts as an intermediary between the publisher application and the subscriber application, thus making it unnecessary for the publisher application and the subscriber application to know any details about each other, comprising the steps of:

selecting a specific publication point data processing node of the broker from amongst a plurality of such publication point data processing nodes, such that a different publication point data processing node is selected on different occasions, a publication point data processing node being an entry point data processing node of the broker, such entry point node being followed by a series of other data processing nodes where each node in the series carries out a specific data processing operation on the data message, where each publication point data processing node of said plurality of publication point data processing nodes is followed by a ~~unique~~ series of data processing nodes unique to the respective publication point data processing node; and

communicating with the broker via the selected publication point data processing node, in order to publish the data

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message via the broker, with the broker carrying out the data processing operations corresponding to the unique series of data processing nodes unique to the selected publication point data processing node.

10. (Previously presented): The method of claim 9 wherein a first publication point data processing node is followed by a message transformation node and a second publication point data processing node is not followed by a message transformation node, whereby, when the first publication point data processing node is selected, published messages undergo transformation by the message transformation node and when the second publication point data processing node is selected, published messages will not undergo transformation by the message transformation node.

11. (Amended): The method of claim 10 wherein the publisher application selects ~~to communicate with the broker via either the first or the second publication point data processing node depending on whether the publisher applications intends for message transformation to take place on a published message:~~ selecting the first publication point data processing node if message transformation is to take place or ~~selecting~~ selects the second publication point data processing node if message transformation is not to take place.

12. (Previously presented): A computer program product, stored on a computer readable storage medium, for, when run on a computer system, instructing the computer system to carry out the method of claim 9.